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New England, it is inferred that the distribution of marine animals on the shores of North-eastern America "was governed by the same laws as at the present day. In going southward from Labrador to New York the seas became warmer the more they came in contact with the heated waters of the Gulf Stream, whose influence was evidently exerted on the coast of New England during the Glacial Period." The climate of New England was not purely arctic, like that of Greenland, but rather subarctic like that of Labrador, while now it is much warmer, being "boreal," or north temperate.

These studies on surface geology have attracted and always will attract much attention. Especially interesting is the occurrence of fossils in our clay and sand deposits, and we beg our readers to carefully preserve all shells and bones and other remains which may be found in making excavations for roads or wells. We are liable to discover in these deposits the bones of the mastodon, the elephant, the walrus, bison, and various species of whales. It is not improbable that the horse will be found to have lived in New England during the Terrace Period, immediately succeeding the disappearance of glaciers, and in fact every thing is to be determined regarding the distribution of life during these dark ages, either immediately preceding or accompanying the appearance of man on the earth.

The work closes with a catalogue of the marine animals dredged along the coast of Labrador, with descriptions of over twenty new species. The plates are beautifully executed, illustrating rare and interesting fossils from the Leda clays, and living forms of shells, worms, and crustaceans, with a geological map of that portion of the coast visited by the author. — A. H.

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE. London. October, 1867.

We run hastily through the October number. Mr. Alfred Wallace, in "Creation by Law," reviews the Duke of Argyll's "Reign of Law." A very attractive plate represents an imaginary species of Hawk-moth (*Sphinx*) fertilizing by moonlight the flowers of an orchid growing in the forests of Madagascar, whose long, slender nectary hangs down twelve inches. Wallace argues that "the splendor of the humming-birds, is directly connected with their very existence." The most gaily-colored males are preferred by the more homely females, "which would lead to the individuals so adorned having more than the average number of offspring," adding, that "Mr. Darwin has lately arrived at the wonderful generalization that flowers have become beautiful solely to attract insects to assist in their fertilization." He adds, "I have come to this conclusion from finding it an invariable rule, that when a flower is fertilized by the wind, it never has a gaily-

colored corolla."—Cuthbert Collingwood writes on the Luminosity of the Sea.—Our Field Clubs, their Aims, Objects, and Work, notices the existence of institutions which have but recently started into growth, and seem as popular in England, as the Essex Institute in its summer dress seems to be in our Essex county. There, as with us, such meetings result in a wide diffusion of a taste for Natural History, and the managers of such meetings should bear in mind that "the excursion programme should in every case be drawn up with due consideration for the predilections of incipient naturalists." The Liverpool Naturalists' Field Club has 720 members. Its president states, "Large numbers join our excursions who are not particularly interested in any branch of natural science, and this is just what the chief object of our club renders a desirable circumstance. Special trains are made up, and journeys often of 160 miles a day, at a cost, including a substantial dinner-tea, of about seven shillings each, allowing five hours for work at the localities visited," give rest, recreation, and instruction to hundreds. During the past few years, the Institute Field Meetings have been deservedly popular in Essex county, from five hundred to two thousand persons attending them, and have done much to popularize scientific, historical, and antiquarian research.

From the Chronicles of Science, we learn that "India seems likely to be able to supply the whole world with quinine; for not only was the American supply uncertain, it was actually threatened with extinction, owing to the reckless way in which the Indians killed the trees in the process of stripping, planting, of course, no new ones."—M. Naudin believes that "monstrous" plants may become new species. A Poppy "took on a remarkable variation in its fruit,—a crown of secondary capsules being added to the normal central capsule. A field of such poppies was grown, and M. Göppert, with seed from this field, obtained still this monstrous form, in great quantity. Deformities of ferns are sometimes sought after by fern-growers. They are now always obtained by taking spores from the abnormal parts of a monstrous fern, from which spores ferns, presenting the same peculiarities, invariably grow."—"The Earl of Selkirk throws great doubt on the received creed as to the secular rise of land in Scandinavia."—Dr. Landois and W. Thelen show that there is an apparatus for closing the tracheæ of insects, which apparatus is often so developed, as to serve as a vocal organ.

The interest in the "Glass Rope controversy," regarding the nature of this very curious and remarkably elegant sponge or polyp, supposed to have been an artificial Japanese product, has been heightened by the alleged discovery of a European *Hyalonema*, or "Glass

Rope," off the coast of Portugal. — Dr. Pigeaux "believes that never, or quite accidentally and rarely, does the hare breed with the rabbit. The so-called Léporides are true rabbits, and not hybrids at all. The belief in the existence of such a hybrid was prevalent among the ancients."

Additional evidence has been obtained from the exploration of Kent's Cavern, Devonshire, that man was a contemporary with the mammoth, in the British Isles. — Messrs. Wistaw and Burk state that "falcons and hawks act as nature's police, and check the spread of disease and epidemics amongst birds, by killing off the weakly individuals of a covey."

Dr. Anton Dohrn, believes that all crustacea, insects, and arachnida, can be traced to a single parent form, which they each reproduce at one or the other period of development. This form is identical with the larva of Cirrhipedes (Barnacles); and he gives it the name of *Archizoëa*. But do insects pass through the form of a young barnacle? Without committing ourselves to Darwinian views, should we not rather look upon the *worm* as being the archetypal form of articulates, as they all assume this state in the course of development? Dohrn's *Archizoëa*, or articulate prototype, with better reason, we would suggest, takes on a worm-like form. — Mr. Wallace has published a most interesting paper "On the Relation between Sexual Differences of Color and Nidification in Birds." — "He runs over in detail the principal species of birds, having the female as beautiful and brilliant, or as conspicuous as the male. In cases where the female has this conspicuous appearance, the nest always conceals the female, and in cases where the female is of a dull color, the nest exposes a considerable portion of the sitting bird. When the male bird is less brilliant than the female, it is found that the male performs the duties of incubation. There thus seems to be a connection between the color of the different sexes of birds and the sitting over the eggs. There are some exceptions to this generalization, but they can be easily explained, for these are generally protective colors. Mr. Wallace considered that Darwin's principle of natural selection most aptly explained this connection of color and nests."

THE NATURALIST'S NOTE BOOK. London. January—October, 1867.

This journal culls from all departments of Natural History, forming a common-place-book of selections, and is a very entertaining monthly. Our contributors will be pleased to know that a dozen or more of articles from the AMERICAN NATURALIST appear in its pages with due credit.

Bee keepers will examine with interest Mr. J. Lowe's "Observa-